

Palestine Independent School District

Administrative Offices

*1600 South Loop 256 * Palestine, Texas 75801*

*Office 903-731-8000 * Fax 903-729-5588*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

March 12, 2010

CC Docket No. 02-6

RE: Request for Waiver

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The purpose of this letter is to request a waiver of the Form 471 paper certification postmark deadline of February 19, 2010 for the Form 471 documents listed below which now have a status of Certified – Out of Window and will not be considered for funding during eRate Year 13. Should this request be granted, we ask these documents be reviewed for funding as if they were postmarked on February 19, 2010 and changed to a status as if they would have a status of Certified – In Window so that these requests will be considered for funding during Year eRate 13.

Contact Information is listed below:

Organization:	Palestine Independent School District
Contact Person:	David Long
Contact Address:	1600 S. Loop 256; Palestine, TX 75801
Contact Phone:	903-731-8000 Fax: 903-729-5588
Contact Email:	dlong@palestineschools.org

The extenuating circumstances that we feel justify this request for waiver of the Form 471 paper certification postmark deadline are as follows. Several weeks before the February 19th deadline, Mr. David Long (District employee responsible for eRate filings) began finalizing the Form 471 documents bringing them to the point where the certification process was to be chosen. Knowing that an electronic certification using a PIN would be the most efficient, Mr. Long reviewed the process for obtaining a PIN and it was noted that a PIN could not be requested and that one was automatically sent to the responsible person (in this case our District Superintendent) if there had been previous eRate filings. In this case, there had been many. Mr. Long checked with the Superintendent's office and a PIN was

indicated to be on file. Based on this information Mr. Long continued to work through the Form 471 process and had several filings that required his attention up until about 4:00 PM on February 19, 2010. After finalizing all the Form 471s in preparation for the certification process, Mr. Long soon discovered that the PIN on file was for use on a Form 472 form only and could not be used to electronically certify the Form 471s. Mr. Long was then left with no other choice but to proceed with paper certification. The paper certification process requires documents to be printed, signed and packaged for mailing via USPS. The USPS Post office in Palestine closed before Mr. Long could get there and was forced to mail them the next business day, February 22, 2010, leading to the status as Certified – Out of Window.

Without the continued funding of the eRate system, the students of Palestine Independent School District would lose ground and be less prepared to face the challenges to today's high-tech classrooms. In addition, loss of funding would severely impact our ability to conduct the normal business of the District due to added demands on an already stretched budget. We would like to list some reasons why we feel that granting this waiver for the Form 471s listed below is in the best public interest of the students of Palestine Independent School District and the community.

1. Palestine ISD is a rural, economically-disadvantaged District with student enrollment of approximately 3,300 students with an equal population of Hispanic, African-American and Anglo.
2. Our eRate discount for the 2010-2011 school year (eRate Year 13) is calculated to be 87%.
3. The eRate funding in previous years has been a critical success factor is helping our students strive to achieve academic excellence.
4. Through the implementation of several web-based student learning systems and several classroom initiatives we were able to bring the Palestine High School academically unacceptable to recognized by the Texas Education Agency in one year.
5. The following is a list of the Form 471s Funding Request Numbers on which we would request a waiver of the Form 471 paper certification postmark deadline along with a summary of the impact due to lack of funding for the 2010-2011 school year.

Billed Entity Number	Form 471 Application Number	Vendor SPIN	Funding Request Number (FRN)	Impact to the Community
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140751	759851	14300175	2052790	This is the 3 rd year of a 5 year contract. Work to install the Wide Area Network (WAN) has been under way to 2 years with completion just occurring on March 1, 2010. This high speed service takes the place of existing T-1 circuits. Denial of funding would force Palestine ISD to remain on the T-1 circuits and severely curtail what students and staff have already begun to experience with the gigabit WAN services. This will also stop our ability to implement VoIP services in the District. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759851	14300175	2052791	This is adding WAN service for a newly renovated campus for Head Start and Pre-K. Without this service, there will be no VoIP or data connectivity for this campus. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759851	14300175	2052792	This is adding WAN service for a new campus for Early College High School. Without this service, there will be no VoIP or data connectivity for this campus. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759855	143025872	2052798	This is the 2 nd year of a 5 year contract. There still has been no funding commitment decision letter (FCDL) issued on the original FRN 1889257. This is for VoIP services and is planned to place phone services in each

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				classroom to improve communication with parents and provide an additional level of security. Handsets are to be purchased by Palestine ISD. We feel this is very important to the future and security of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759855	143025872	2052801	This is an amendment to add VoIP services to the newly-renovated Head Start and PreK campus. This is for VoIP services and is planned to place phone services in each classroom to improve communication with parents and provide an additional level of security. Handsets are to be purchased by Palestine ISD. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759855	143025872	2052803	This is an amendment to add VoIP services for a new campus for Early College High School. This is for VoIP services and is planned to place phone services in each classroom to improve communication with parents and provide an additional level of security. Handsets are to be purchased by Palestine ISD. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759841	143019614	2052772	This is to provide local phone service on a Nortel phone switch that is reaching end of life in 2011. We plan to replace this with the VoIP services mentioned above. A major failure in this hardware could cripple the

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				District and eliminate our ability to communicate with the community and parents. We are requesting funding to maintain this system until we transition to VoIP services; once VoIP services are approved, the remainder of the FRN is to be returned. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759841	143019614	2052778	This is to fund long distance services for the District and is key to conducting the normal day-to-day business of the District. We will still retain this service after VoIP services are implemented. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759841	143019614	2052779	This is for T-1 services to connect the campuses with voice and data. If a waiver is granted for the WAN and VoIP services, the remainder of the funding will be returned. For now, it is required for voice services. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759841	143019614	2052782	This is funding for a new PRI circuit that increase the number of simultaneous calls once we add VoIP services to the classrooms. This is our primary path we use to stay in touch with the community. We feel this is very important to the future and security of Palestine ISD as we move forward and

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				sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759841	143000677	2052786	This is for cell phone services for key employees in the District. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	759841	143019614	2069885	This is funding for the existing PRI circuit that handles inbound and outbound calls. This will be retained and used if the VoIP waiver is granted. This is our primary path we use to stay in touch with the community. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	749305	143019614	2024259	This is to increase our access to the Internet to 100 mbps from the current 50 mbps. Through grants we are adding 650 laptops for students at the high school and 430 iPod Touch units for 7 th and 8 th grade students. All of these will increase our need for bandwidth to the Internet. We cannot express how important this is to preparing our students for college! We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	749189	143020189	2023861	This is for the continuation of our webhosting services. This becomes extremely important as we move forward on the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grades. We will begin using classroom web pages as an important tool in preparing students for college and drop boxes for homework. We feel this is very important to

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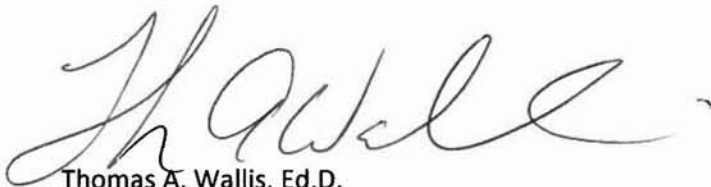
				the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.
140751	743703	143020189	2023554	This is for student email as we begin the total immersion grant for the 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grade students. This will be our first rollout of email for high school students and we feel very vital to the students' preparation for college work. This vendor is the same as our webhosting and enables the students to complete homework and send to an electronic drop box. We feel this is very important to the future of Palestine ISD as we move forward and sincerely request the waiver be granted.

In summary, the funding provided by the eRate program is critical to the continued success of Palestine ISD. Without your continued funding of the FRNs listed above, we will be forced to cut back services and take a backward step on the road to excellence. We at Palestine Independent School District sincerely hope that you will grant the waiver for the Form 471 and consider the Form 471s and accompanying FRNs as being: 1) timely submitted but for innocuous clerical oversight; 2) timely submitted but for unavailability of USPS date-stamp due to closure of the USPS at the sight of mailing on February 19, 2010; 3) timely submitted in view of the entirety of the circumstances and for reasons un substantial part beyond the control of the Palestine Independent School District and its student body as a whole; or 4) timely submitted in that harmless error arose under these circumstances which warrants an extension of the deadline by one (1) business day as not doing so is tantamount to penalizing the innocent ultimate beneficiary students yet doing so causes no harm.

We also plan to contact USAC to determine why we were not automatically sent a Form 471 PIN for use in electronic certification. If you should have any questions, please contact Mr. David Long at any of the numbers/email mentioned earlier in this letter.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Wallis', written in black ink.

Thomas A. Wallis, Ed.D.
Superintendent